



Bio-Optimized Technologies to keep Thermoplastics  
out of Landfills and the Environment



# DOE Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO) 2023 Project Peer Review

BOTTLE 3 – Deconstruction – Chemical Catalysis

April 3, 2023

Technology Session Review Area: Plastics Deconstruction and Redesign

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Biocatalysis PI: Taraka Dale, Los Alamos National Laboratory

# Overview: Chemo-catalytic deconstruction routes in BOTTLE



## Deconstruction is a major effort in BOTTLE

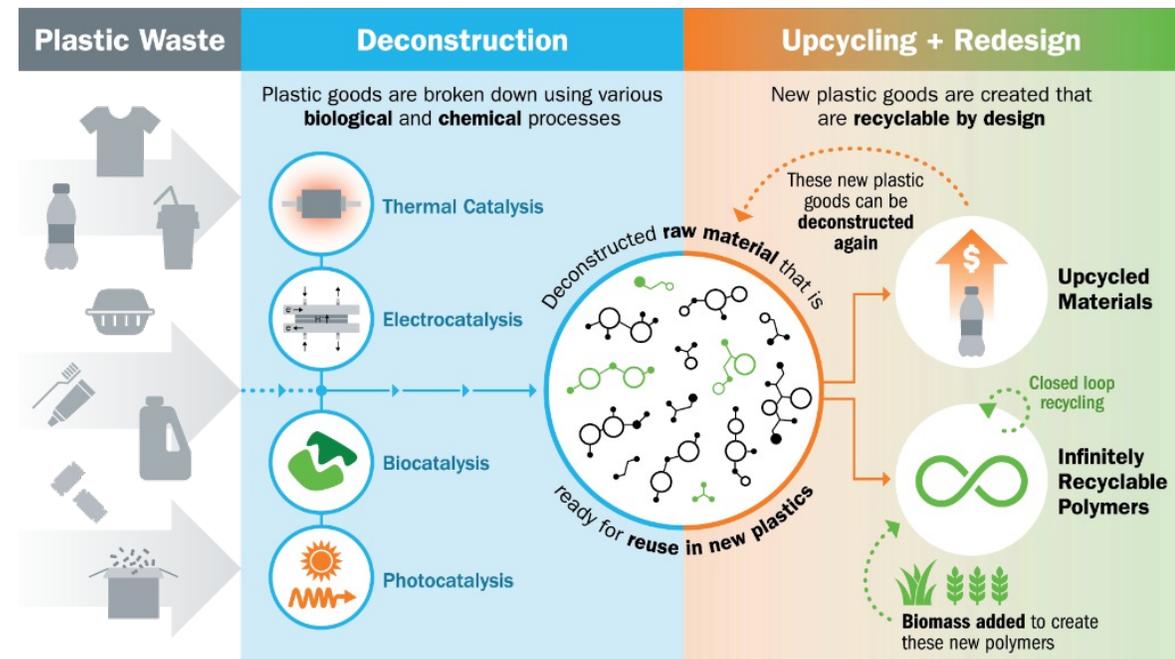
- Work spans exploratory catalysis (“fail fast”) to advancing promising approaches towards scale-up
- Deconstruction aligns with DOE’s Strategy for Plastics Innovation

## Deconstruction of today’s polymers

- Chemical catalysis for C–C bond cleavage in mixed plastics waste for **open-loop recycling**
- Chemical catalysis for PET and nylon deconstruction and **closed-loop recycling**

## Chemical catalysis approaches

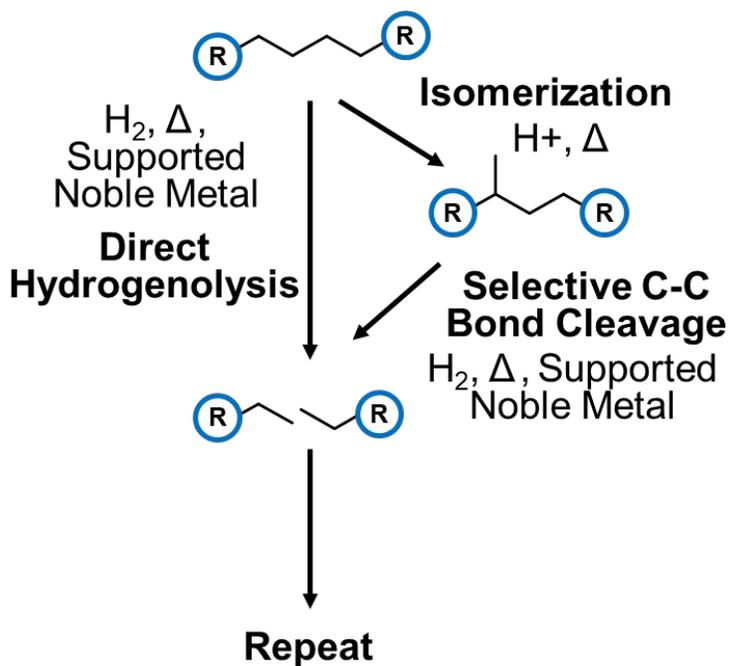
- Homogeneous and heterogeneous thermal catalysis
- Electrocatalytic and photocatalytic oxidation (down-selected)





# Approach: Thermochemical methods

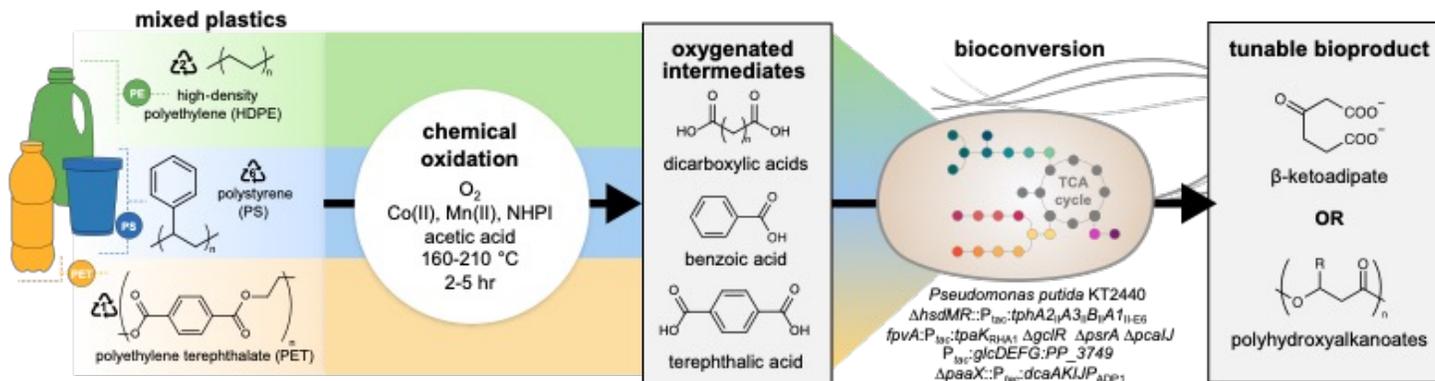
## Hydrogenolysis



Focus on polyolefin waste

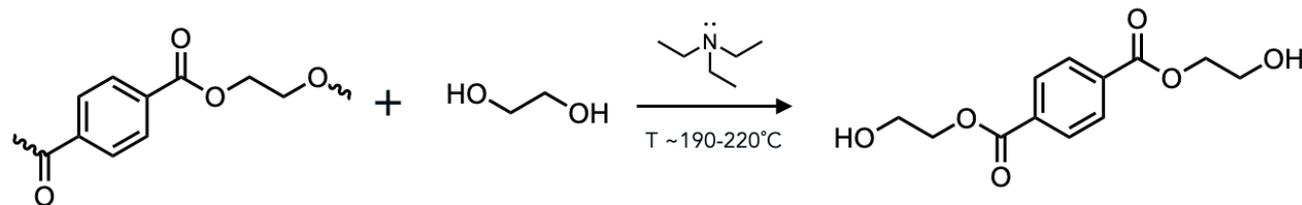
## Oxidation

Sullivan, Werner, Ramirez, Ellis, et al., Science 2022



Focus on mixed plastics waste

## Glycolysis



Poly(ethylene terephthalate)

Reagent/Solvent

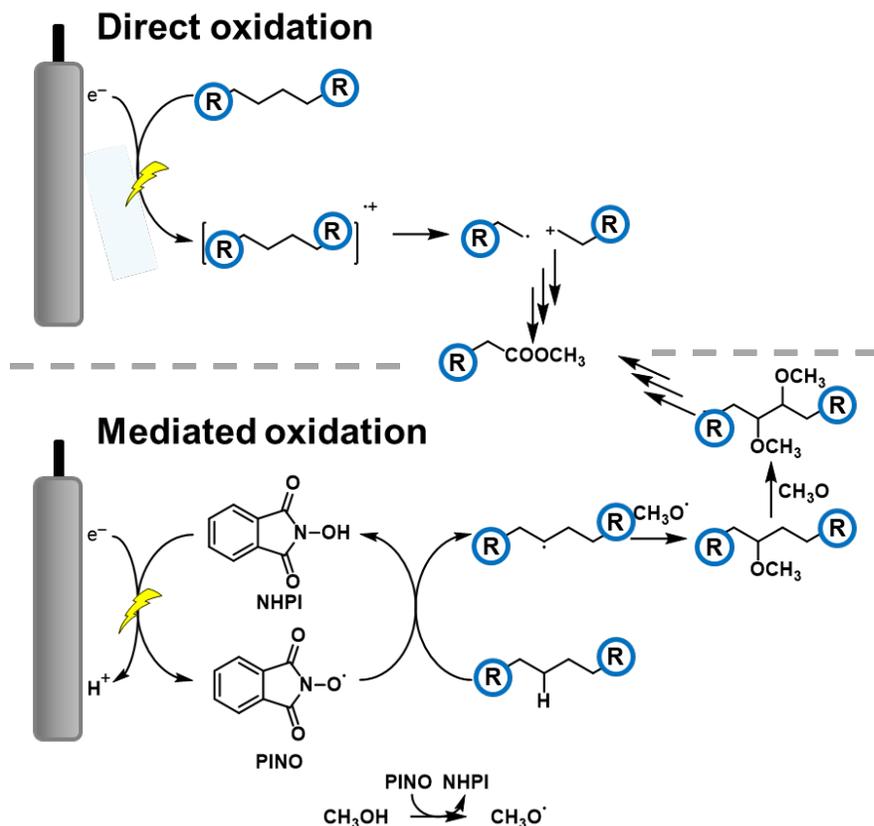
Bis(2-hydroxyethyl) terephthalate (BHET)

Focus on PET and condensation polymers

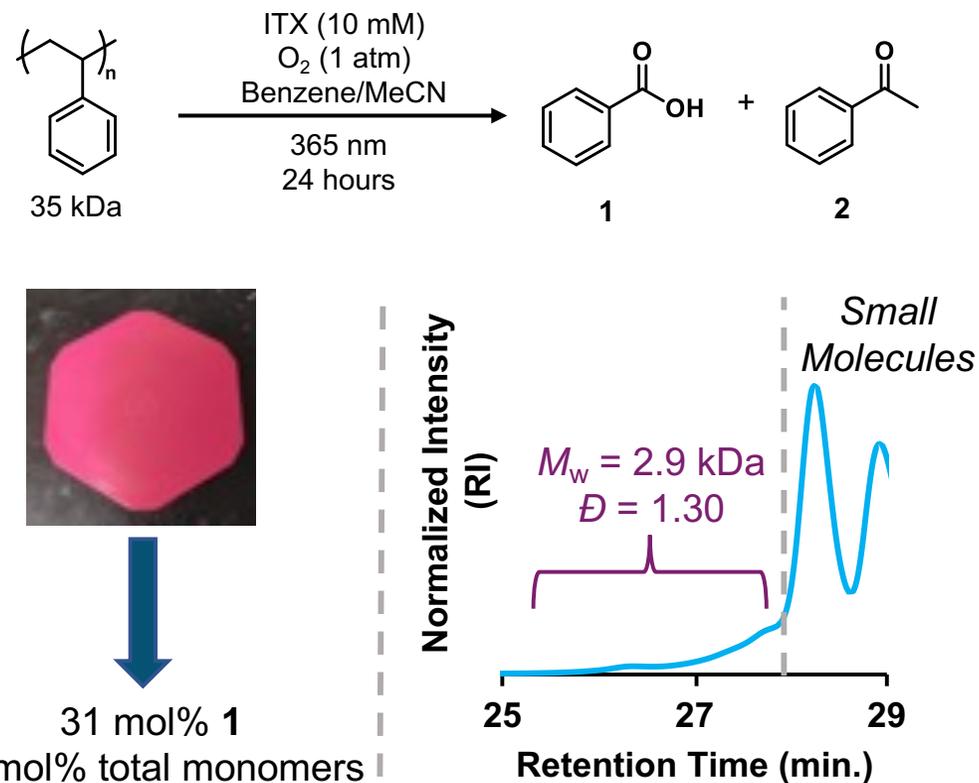


# Photo- and electro-chemical approaches

## Electrochemical strategy for plastics oxidation



## Photochemical strategy for plastics oxidation



FY22 Go/No-Go results: these tasks have been down-selected currently and will not be further pursued



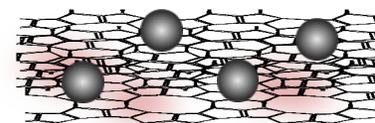
## Risks

- ✓ Unknown effect of common impurities on catalyst performance
- ✓ Potential mass transport limitations for large polymers in zeolites
- ✓ Variation of performance with reaction scale

## Mitigation

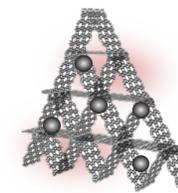
- ✓ Controlled studies with known additives
- ✓ Hierarchical and 2D zeolites for modulation of mass transport effects
- ✓ Larger-scale batch reactors and continuous flow deconstruction processes

2-D H-ZSM-5 Nanosheets

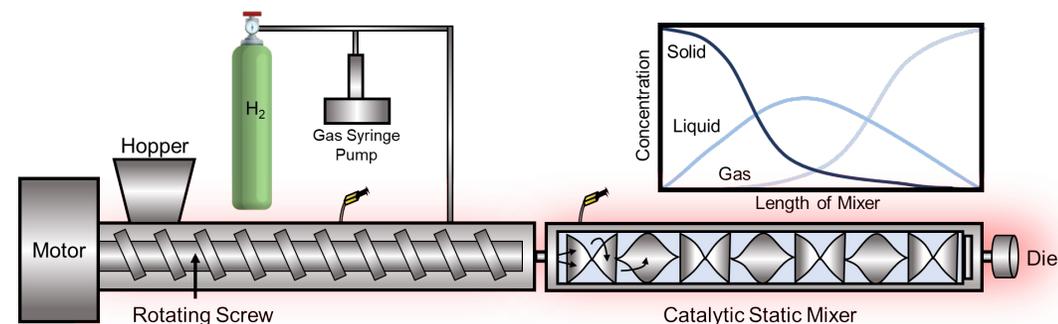


No internal pore confinement

House of Cards H-ZSM-5

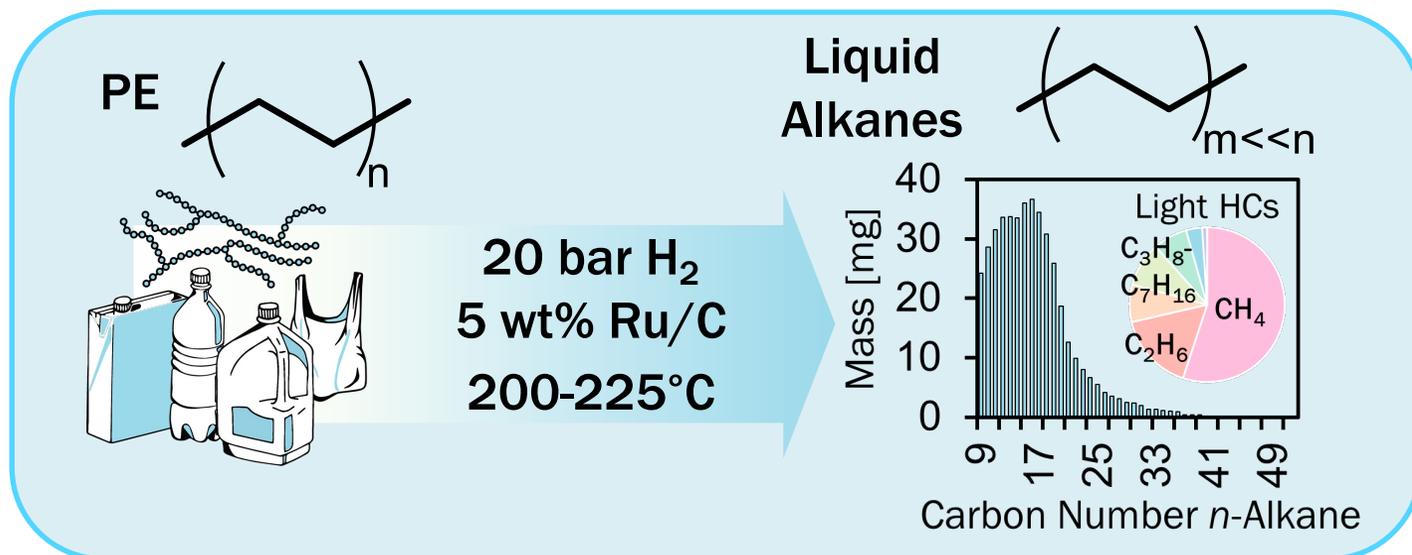


Addition of mesoporous voids between nanosheets

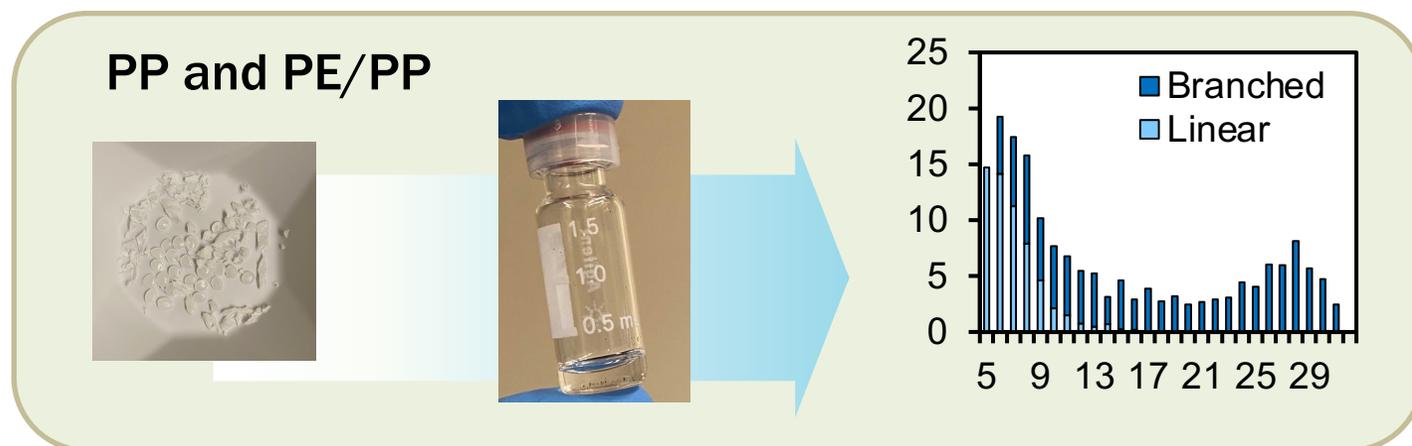




# Progress and outcomes: hydrogenolysis



Rorrer et al., JACS Au 2021



Rorrer et al., ACS Sust. Chem. Eng. 2021

**Goal:** increase liquid yields for PE and PP hydrogenolysis by suppressing methane formation (terminal C-C bond cleavage)

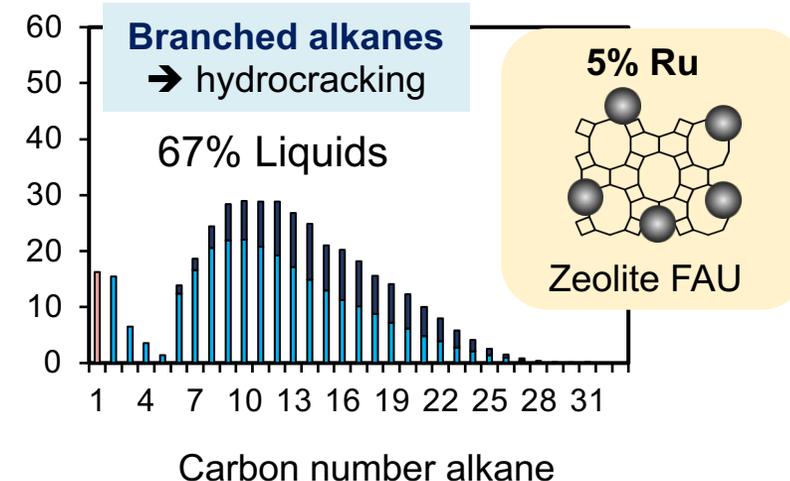
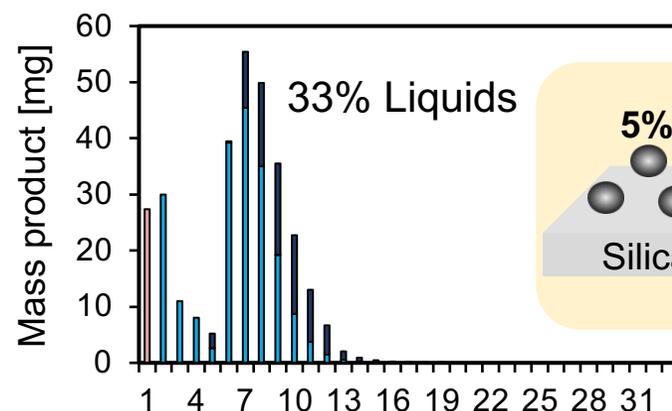
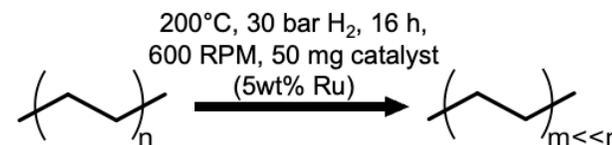
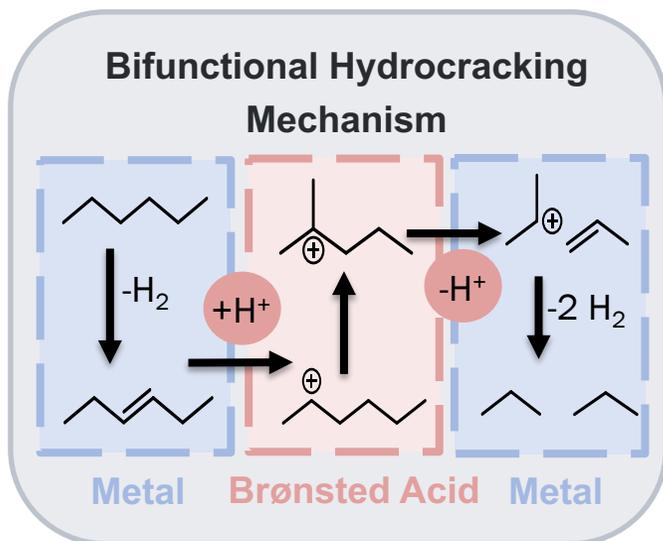
## Advantages:

- ✓ Mild reaction conditions (lower T) compared to pyrolysis
- ✓ Improved selectivity
- ✓ Ru/C can depolymerize PE, PP, mixtures, and post-consumer PE/PP to processible liquid alkanes

## Key Challenges:

- Suppression of methane formation
- Forming narrow product distributions

# Ru/zeolite improves liquid yields



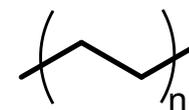
**Goal:** Understand support and catalyst properties required for selective C-C bond scission over Ru-based catalysts

**Background:** Standard Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts adept at breaking C-C bonds but liquid yield is low

**Impact:** Bifunctional mechanism offers a new handle to target more narrow product distributions while increasing liquid yields

**Future work:** Expand palette of pore topologies and metals; perform detailed TEA and LCA

# Cobalt/ZSM-5 for single product generation



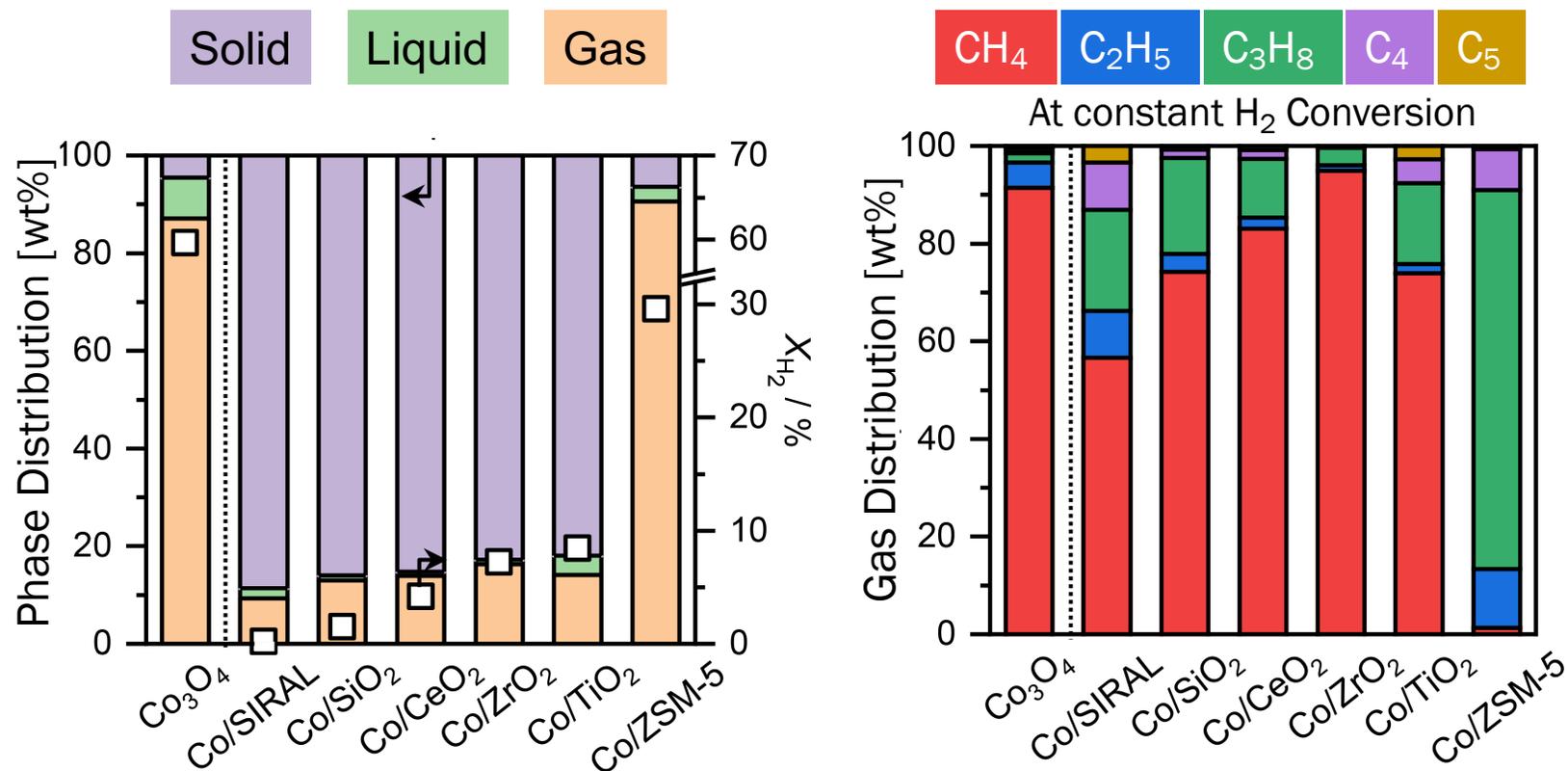
250°C, 40 bar H<sub>2</sub>, 20 h,  
600 RPM, 50 mg<sub>eq</sub> Co  
catalyst (5 wt% Co)

**Goal:** Evaluate catalysts for PE and PP depolymerization using earth-abundant metals

**Background:** Co oxide readily produces methane

**Impact:** First example of hydrogenolysis funneling of polyolefins to C<sub>3</sub> hydrocarbon with Co-ZSM-5

**Future Work:** Understanding role of metal and support to selectively access longer chain hydrocarbons

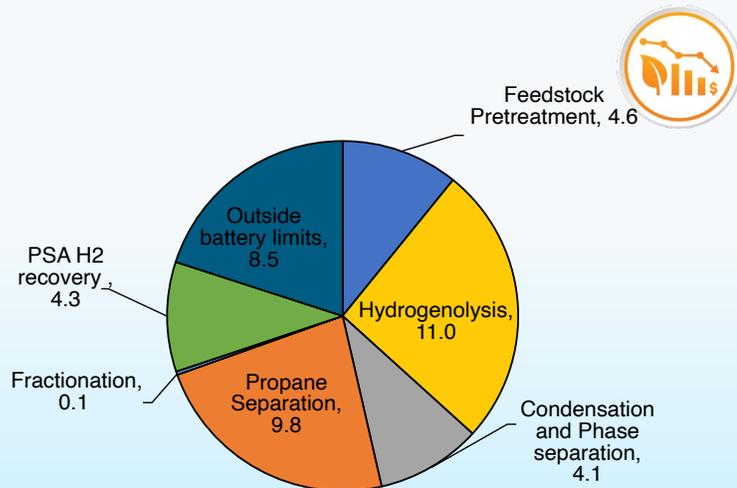


- ✓ Up to 85% propane selectivity in the gas-phase (>70% yield)
- ✓ Works for PE, PP, PE/PP mixtures and post-PE

# Ongoing and future work in reductive depolymerization

## Technoeconomic analyses

### TEA & LCA



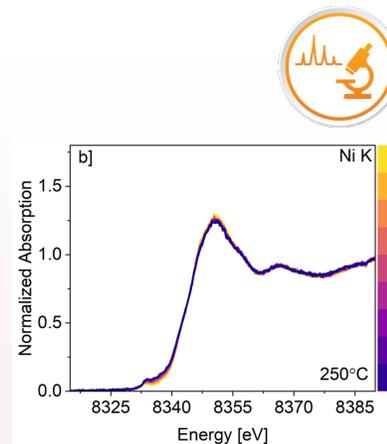
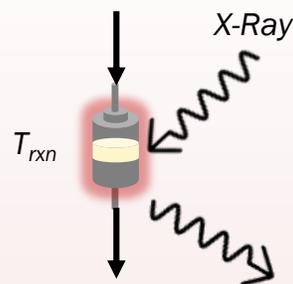
Analysis of:

- Ru-catalyzed hydrogenolysis to fuels
- Co-catalyzed conversion of plastic to propane
- Economics of methanation

## Mechanistic studies

### In situ synchrotron spectroscopy

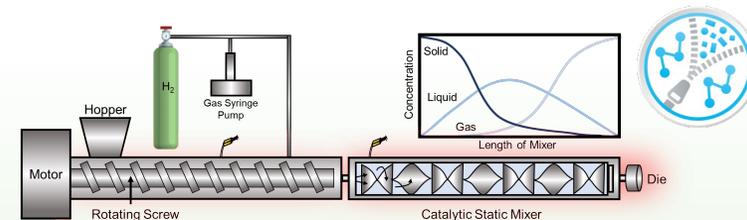
H<sub>2</sub> + model polyethylene  
(*n*-dodecane, *n*-butane)



- In situ XAS to probe the oxidation state and the coordination environment of the catalyst under reaction conditions
- Synchrotron XRD to determine phase evolutions during reaction

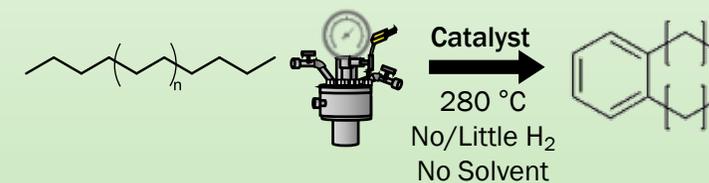
## Reaction engineering/target products

### Continuous reactor-extruder, H<sub>2</sub>-free



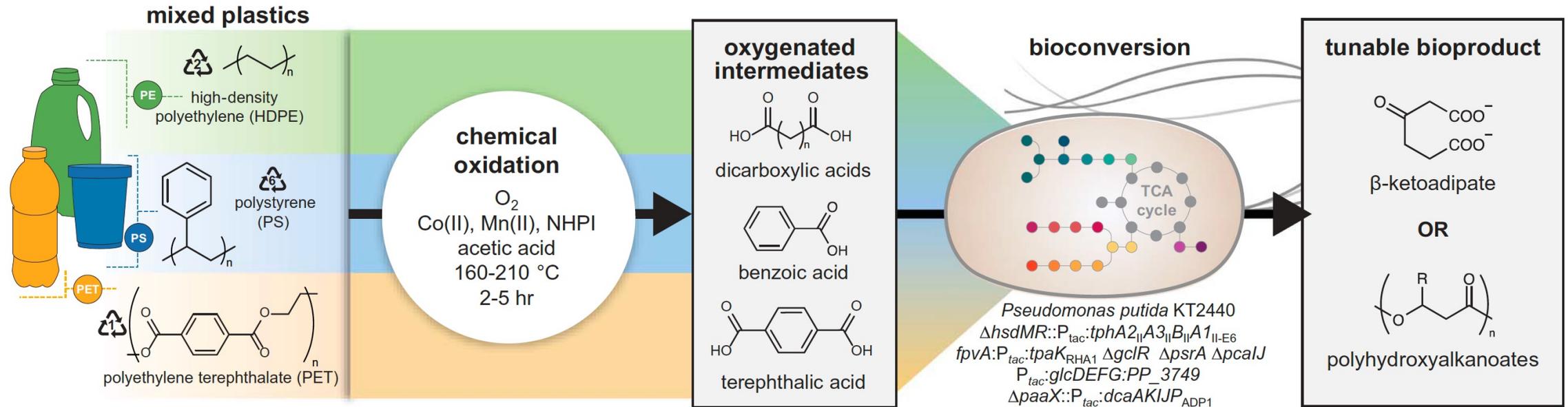
- Design of a reactor for continuous polyolefin hydroconversion
- Design based on a catalyst-coated extruder

### Targeting aromatic chemicals at low H<sub>2</sub> P



- Study effect of H<sub>2</sub> partial pressure
- Target aromatic chemicals

# Autoxidation of mixed plastics waste



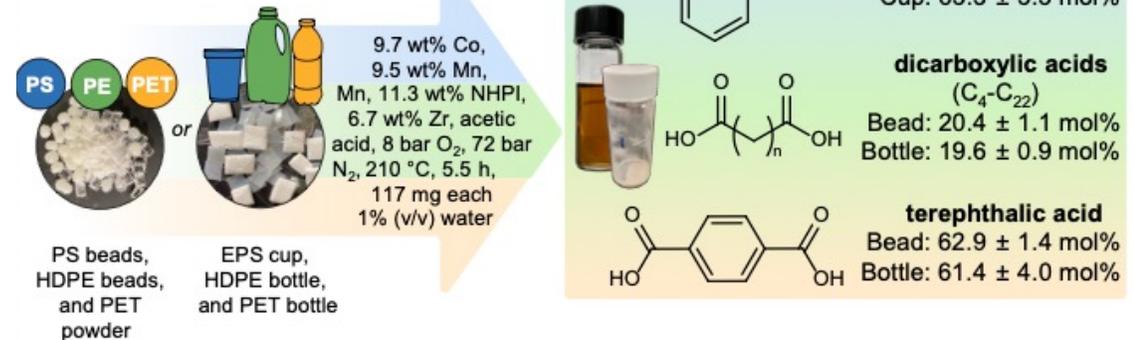
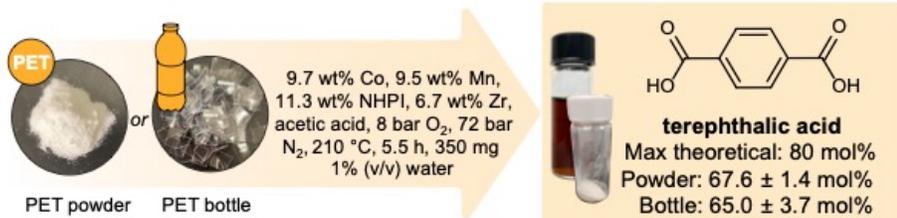
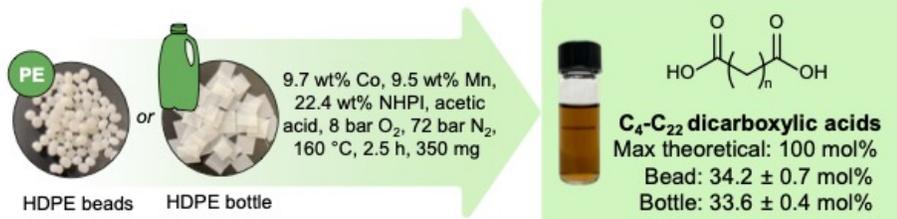
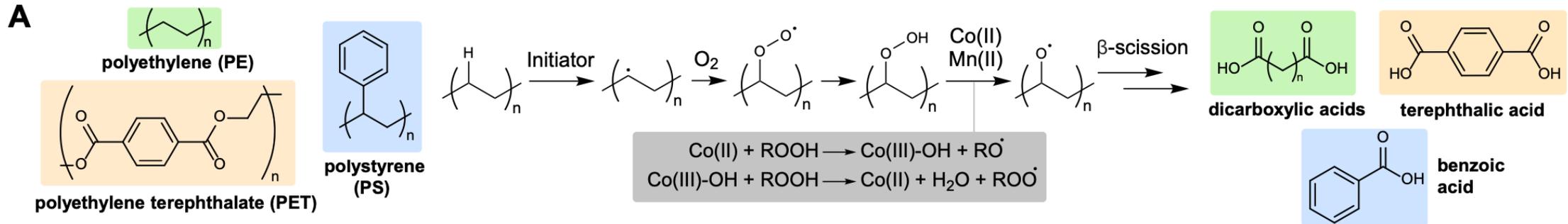
**Goal:** depolymerize mixed plastics waste to bio-available oxygenates with robust process

**Background:** catalysis has precedent in the industrial process to produce terephthalic acid

**Impact:** strategy is tolerant of contaminants in mixed plastics waste including PVC, dyes, etc.

**Future work:** offers a direct route to produce designer building blocks (with Upcycling and Redesign)

# Autoxidation of mixed plastics waste



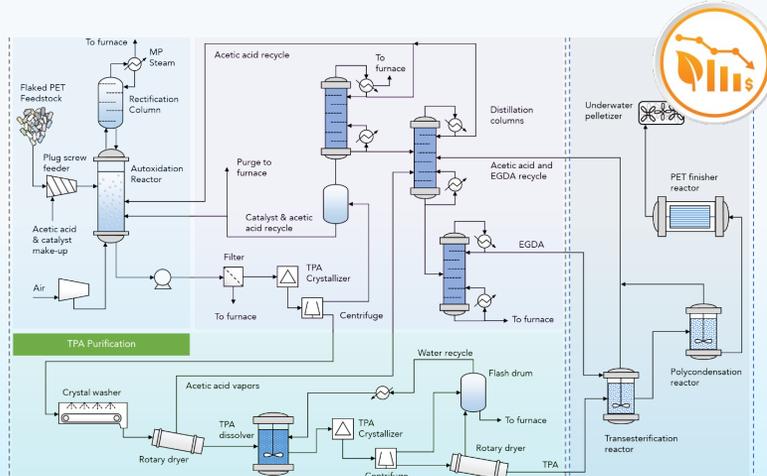
Mixed plastics can be simultaneously deconstructed

Impact: Spun out a company from BOTTLE (Tereform)

# Ongoing and future work in oxidative depolymerization

## Technoeconomic analyses

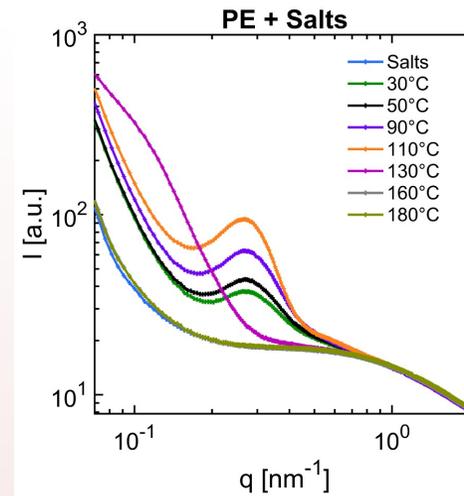
### TEA & LCA



- Focus on single substrates (e.g., PS, textiles, etc.)
- Analysis for PET and (separately) PS autoxidation is quite promising for economics and GHG emissions

## Mechanistic studies

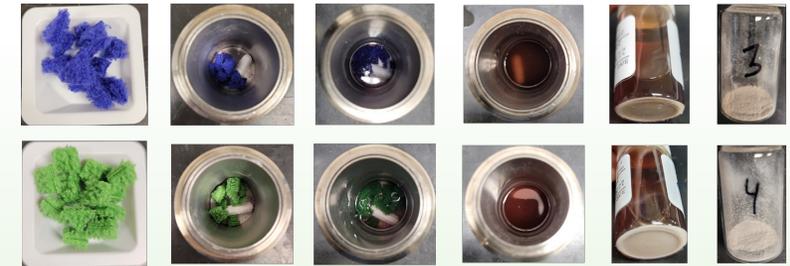
### Small-angle X-ray scattering



- In situ small-angle X-ray scattering has shown that this is likely a bulk process at reaction condition
- Mechanistic studies ongoing to determine nature of catalyst at reaction conditions

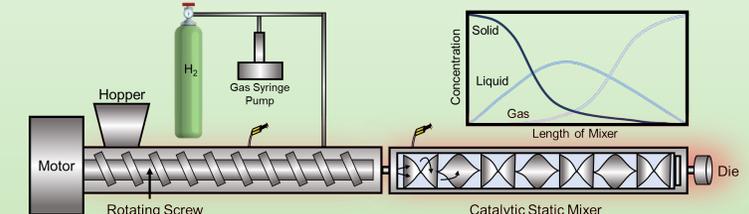
## Substrates and reaction engineering

### Expanding substrate scope



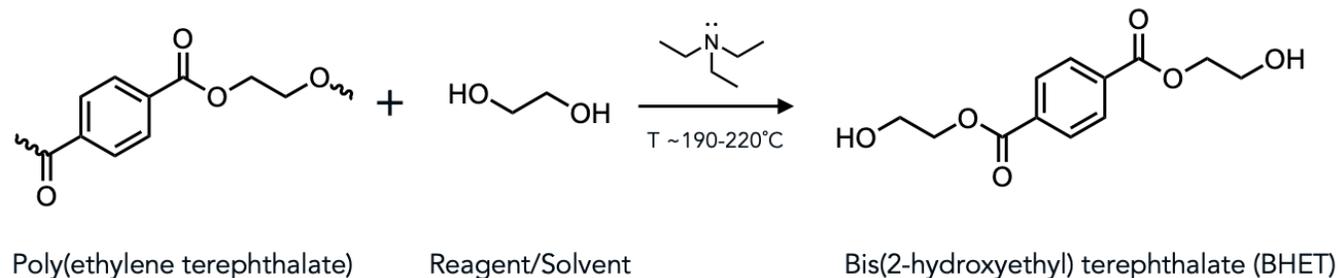
- Multi-layer films, packaging waste
- Textiles, polystyrene

### Developing a continuous process



- Working with engineering design group to build continuous reactor

# Glycolysis of PET



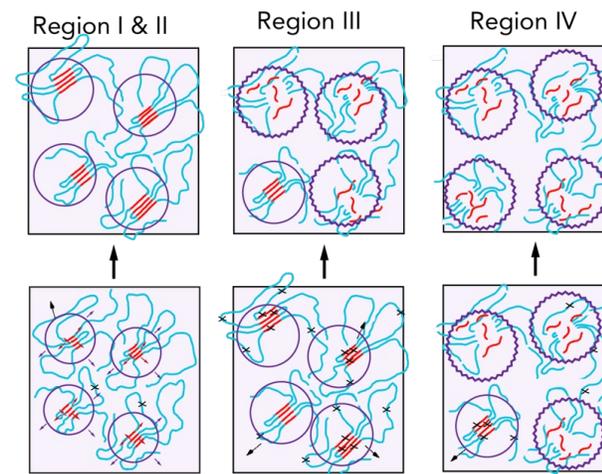
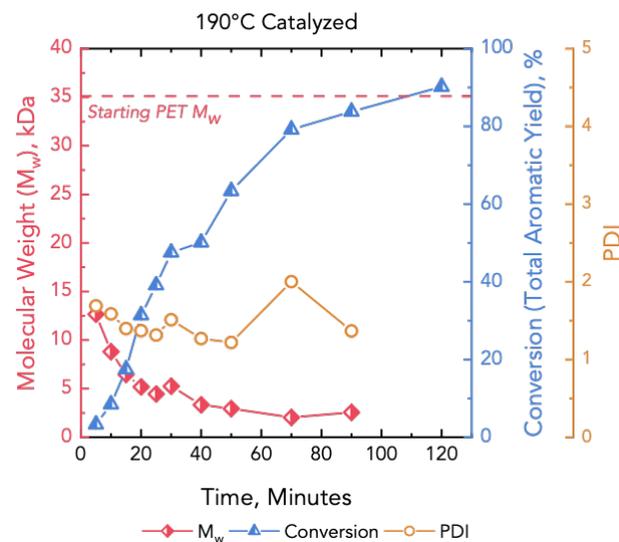
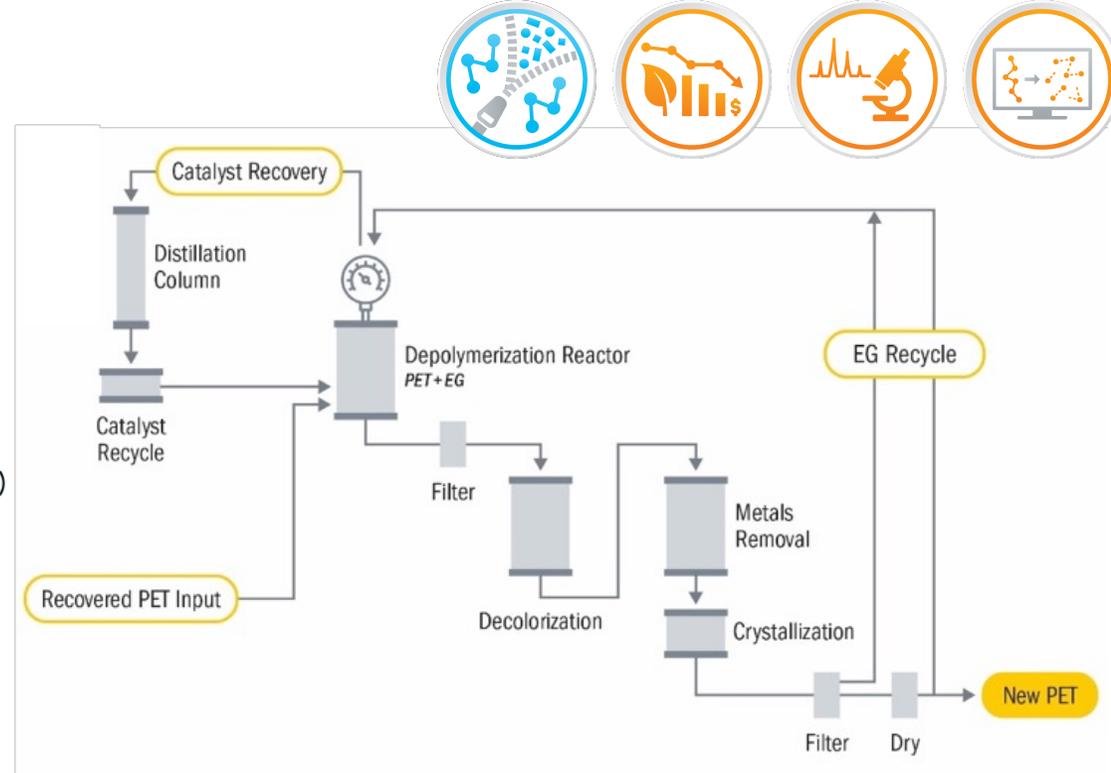
**Goal:** develop PET closed-loop recycling with an industrially-relevant approach

**Background:** process originally invented by Bob Allen at IBM (now at BOTTLE/NREL) – work ongoing in collaboration with IBM

**Outcomes:** development of continuous reactor, analysis, and understanding of reacting polymer chemistry and physics

**Impact:** work will inform scale-up and improved reactor design

**Future work:** Expand catalyst slate and deploy to additional substrates



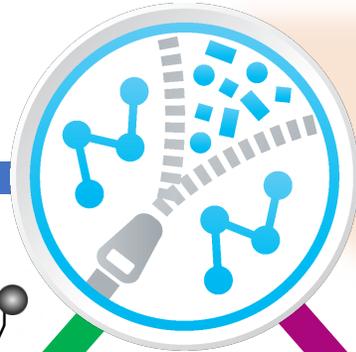
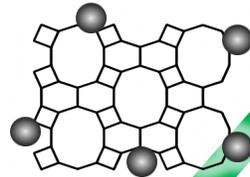
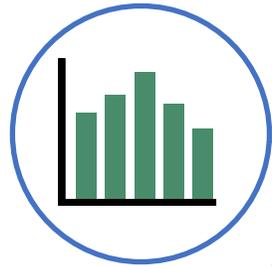
# Impact for chemo-catalytic deconstruction

## Hydrogenolysis:

Metal acid increases liquid yield and suppresses methane



Lubricant



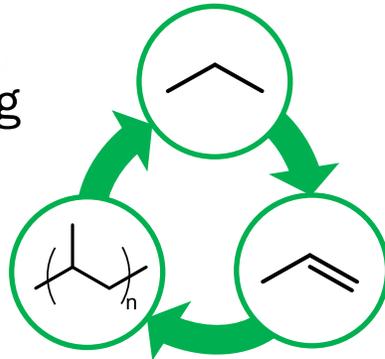
## OxFun:

High yield technology tolerant of contaminants in mixed plastics

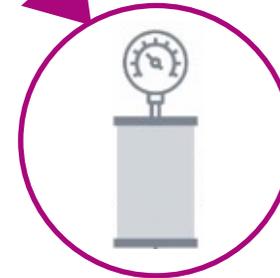
## Hydrogenolysis:

Co-Zeolite Hydrocracking

Produces a single C3 hydrocarbon product

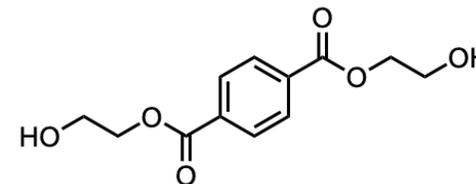


Monomer



## Glycolysis:

Monomer recovery and upcycling; towards scale-up & continuous operation



# Publications

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## In preparation

Amy A. Cuthbertson, Clarissa L. Lincoln, Joel Miscall, Lisa Stanley, David T. Moore, Brenna A. Black, Nicholas A. Rorrer, Gregg T. Beckham, Characterization of polymer properties and identification of additives in commercial research plastics, in preparation.

Shaik Afzal, Avantika Singh, Scott R. Nicholson, Taylor Uekert, Eric C.D. Tan, Abhijit Dutta, Robert M. Baldwin, Gregg T. Beckham, Techno-economic analysis of mixed plastic waste gasification for the production of methanol and hydrogen, in preparation for *Energy Env. Sci.*

Rosie Graham, Erika Erickson, Richard K. Brizendine, Davinia Salvachúa, Zhongping Tan, Gregg T. Beckham, John E. McGeehan, and Andrew R. Pickford, Enzymatic deconstruction of poly(ethylene terephthalate) is not improved by the use of carbohydrate-binding modules at industrially-relevant solids loadings, in preparation for *Chem Catalysis*.

Julie E. Rorrer, Amani M. Ebrahim, Ydna Questell-Santiago, Clara Troyano-Valls, Arun S. Asundi, Simon R. Bare, Christopher J. Tassone, Gregg T. Beckham, Yuriy Román-Leshkov, Selective hydrogenolysis of polyethylene and polypropylene waste to liquid hydrocarbons over bifunctional Ru/acid catalysts, in preparation.

Geetanjali Yadav, Avantika Singh, Abhijit Dutta, Scott R. Nicholson, Kylee Harris, Calvin Mukarakate, Joshua A. Schaidle, Cody J. Wrasman, Yuriy Román-Leshkov, Robert M. Baldwin, Gregg T. Beckham, Techno-economic analysis of pyrolysis of mixed plastics waste, in preparation for *Energy Env. Sci.*

## Submitted

Houqian Li, Robert D. Allen, Xianglan Bai, Gregg T. Beckham, et al., Expanding plastics recycling technologies: chemical aspects, technology status and challenges, submitted to *ACS SusChemEng*.

# Publications

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## In review

Richard K. Brizendine, Erika Erickson, Stefan J. Haugen, Kelsey J. Ramirez, Joel Miscall, Davinia Salvachúa, Andrew R. Pickford, Margaret J. Sobkowicz-Kline, John E. McGeehan, Gregg T. Beckham, Effect of particle size and substrate crystallinity on enzymatic depolymerization of poly(ethylene terephthalate), in review at ACS SusChemEng.

Kevin P. Sullivan, Allison Z. Werner, Kelsey J. Ramirez, et. al., Tandem chemical oxidation and biological funneling for upcycling of mixed plastic waste, in review at Science.

## In revision

Anelia Milbrandt, Kamyria Coney, Alex Baggett, Gregg T. Beckham, Quantity, distribution, market value, and energy value of plastic waste in the United States, in revision at Resources, Conservation, and Recycling.

Allison Z. Werner, Rita Clare, Thomas D. Mand, et. al, Tandem chemical deconstruction and biological upcycling of poly(ethylene terephthalate) to b-ketoadipic acid by *Pseudomonas putida* KT2440, In revision at Metabolic Engineering.

## In press

Scott R. Nicholson, Julie E. Rorrer, Avantika Singh, Mikhail O. Konev, Nicholas A. Rorrer, Alberta C. Carpenter, Alan J. Jacobsen, Yuriy Román-Leshkov, Gregg T. Beckham, The critical role of process analysis in chemical recycling and upcycling of waste plastics, in press at Ann. Rev. Chem. Biomolec. Eng.

# Publications

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## 2023

Taylor Uekert, Avantika Singh, Jason S. DesVeaux, Tapajyoti Ghosh, Arpit Bhatt, Geetanjali Yadav, Shaik Afzal, Julien Walzberg, Katrina M. Knauer, Scott R. Nicholson, Gregg T. Beckham, and Alberta C. Carpenter, “Technical, economic, and environmental comparison of closed-loop recycling technologies for common plastics,” *ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering* (2023) 11, 3, 965–978.

## 2022

Taylor Uekert, Scott R. Nicholson, Avantika Singh, Jason S. DesVeaux, Tapajyoti Ghosh, John E. McGeehan, Alberta C. Carpenter, Gregg T. Beckham, “Life cycle assessment of enzymatic poly (ethylene terephthalate) recycling,” *Green Chemistry* (2022) 24, 6531-6543.

Guido Zichittella, Amani M. Ebrahim, Jie Zhu, Anna E. Brenner, Griffin Drake, Gregg T. Beckham, Simon R. Bare, Julie E. Rorrer, and Yuriy Román-Leshkov, Hydrogenolysis of polyethylene and polypropylene into propane over cobalt-based catalysts, *JACS Au.* (2022) 2, 10, 2259–2268.

Kevin P. Sullivan, Allison Z. Werner, Kelsey J. Ramirez, et. al., Mixed plastics waste valorization through tandem chemical oxidation and biological funneling, *Science* (2022) 378, 207-211.

Rosie Graham, Erika Erickson, Richard K. Brizendine, Davinia Salvachúa, William E. Michener, Yaohao Li, Zhongping Tan, Gregg T. Beckham, John E. McGeehan, Andrew R. Pickford, The role of binding modules in enzymatic poly(ethylene terephthalate) hydrolysis at high-solids loadings, *Chem. Catalysis.* (2022) 2644-2657.

Sang-Min Shin, Ramesh K. Jha, and Taraka Dale, Tackling catch-22 situation of optimizing a sensor and transporter system in a whole cell biosensor design for an anthropogenic small molecule, *ACS Synthetic Biology* (2022), 11, 3996-4008.

# Publications

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Julie E. Rorrer, Amani M. Ebrahim, Ydna Questell-Santiago, Jie Zhu, Clara Troyano-Valls, Arun S. Asundi, Anna E. Brenner, Simon R. Bare, Christopher J. Tassone, Gregg T. Beckham, and Yuriy Román-Leshkov, The role of bifunctional Ru/acid catalysts in selective hydrocracking of polyethylene and polypropylene waste to liquid hydrocarbons, *ACS Catal.* (2022) 12, 22, 13969–13979.

Andrea H. Westlie, Eugene Y.-X. Chen, Chris M. Holland, Shannon S. Stahl, Meredith Doyle, Scott R. Trenor, Katrina M. Knauer, Polyolefin innovations towards circularity and sustainable alternatives, *Macromolecular Rapid Communications* (2022) 43, 2200492.

Raka G. Dastidar, Min Soo Kim, Panzheng Zhou, Zaneta Luo, Changxia Shi, Kevin J. Barnett, Daniel J. McClelland, Eugene Y.-X. Chen, Reid C. Van Lehn, George W. Huber, Catalytic production of tetrahydropyran (THP): a biomass-derived, economically competitive solvent with demonstrated use in plastic dissolution, *Green Chem.* (2022) 24, 9101–9113.

Zhen Zhang, Changxia Shi, Miriam Scoti, Xiaoyan Tang, and Eugene Y.-X. Chen, Alternating Isotactic Polyhydroxyalkanoates via Site- and Stereoselective Polymerization of Unsymmetrical Diolides, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* (2022), 144, 20016–20024.

Andrea H. Westlie, Ethan C. Quinn, Celine R. Parker, Eugene Y.-X. Chen, Synthetic biodegradable polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs): recent advances and future challenges, *Prog. Polym. Sci.* (2022), 134, 101608.

Erika Erickson, Japheth E. Gado, Luisana Avilán, et al., Sourcing thermotolerant poly(ethylene terephthalate) hydrolase scaffolds from natural diversity, *Nat Comm.* (2022) 13, 7850.

Robin M. Cywar, Nicholas A. Rorrer, Heather B. Mayes, Anjani K. Maurya, Christopher J. Tassone, Gregg T. Beckham, Eugene Y.-X. Chen, Redesigned hybrid nylons with optical clarity and chemical recyclability, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* (2022) 144, 5366–5376.

# Publications

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Coralie Jehanno, Jill W. Alty, Martijin, Steven De Meester, Andrew P. Dove, Eugene Y.-X Chen, Frank A. Leibfarth, Haritz Sardon, Critical advances and future opportunities in upcycling commodity polymers, *Nature* (2022), 603, 803–814.

William M. Kincannon, Michael Zahn, Rita Clare, Jessica Lusty Beech, Ari Romberg, James Larson, Brian Bothner, Gregg T. Beckham, John E. McGeehan, and Jennifer L. DuBois, Biochemical and structural characterization of an aromatic ring-hydroxylating dioxygenase for terephthalic acid catabolism. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* (2022) 19(13):e2121426119.

Jessica Lusty-Beech, Rita Clare, William M. Kincannon, Erika Erickson, John E. McGeehan, Gregg T. Beckham, Jennifer L. DuBois, A flexible kinetic assay efficiently sorts prospective biocatalysts for PET plastic subunit hydrolysis. *RSC Adv.* (2022) 12, 8119-8130.

Changxia Shi, Ryan W. Clarke, Michael L. McGraw, Eugene Y.-X., Closing ‘one monomer–two polymers–one monomer’ loop via orthogonal (de)polymerization of a lactone/olefin hybrid, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* (2022) 144, 2264–2275.

Erika Erickson, Thomas Shakespeare, Felecia Bratti, Bonnie L. Buss, Rosie Graham, McKenzie Hawkins, Gerhard König, William E. Michener, Joel Miscall, Kelsey J. Ramirez, Nicholas A. Rorrer, Michael Zahn, Andrew R. Pickford, John E. McGeehan, Gregg T. Beckham, “Comparative PETase performance as a function of reaction conditions, substrate properties, and product accumulation,” *ChemSusChem* (2022) 15, e202101932.

## 2021

Bing Yan, Changxia Shi, Gregg T. Beckham, Eugene Y. X. Chen, Yuriy Román-Leshkov, Electrochemical activation of C-C bonds via mediated hydrogen atom transfer reactions, *ChemSusChem* (2021) 15,6, e202102317.

# Publications

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Changxia Shi, Liam T. Reilly, Vi Sai Phani Kumar, Matthew W. Coile, Scott R. Nicholson, Linda J. Broadbelt, Gregg T. Beckham, Eugene Y.-X. Chen, Design principles for intrinsically circular polymers with tunable properties, *Chem* (2021), 7, 2896–2912.

Julie E. Rorrer, Clara Troyano-Valls, Gregg T. Beckham, and Yuriy Román-Leshkov, Hydrogenolysis of polypropylene and mixed polyolefin plastic waste over Ru/C to produce liquid alkanes, *ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering* (2021) 9, 35, 11661-11666.

Elani Lacovidou, Richard Geyer, Julia Kalow, James Palardy, Jennifer Dunn, Timothy Hoellein, Eugene Y.-X. Chen, Toward a circular economy for plastics, *One Earth* (2021), 4, 591–594 (Featured as Voices article).

Lucas D. Ellis, Nicholas A. Rorrer, Kevin P. Sullivan, et al. Chemical and biological catalysis for plastics recycling and upcycling. *Nature Catal.* (2021) 4, 539–556.

Lucas D. Ellis, Sara V. Orski, Grace A. Kenlaw, Andrew G. Norman, Kathryn L. Beers, Yuriy Román-Leshkov, Gregg T. Beckham, Tandem heterogeneous catalysis for polyethylene depolymerization via an olefin intermediate process, *ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering* (2021) 9, 623-628.

Scott Nicholson, Nicholas A. Rorrer, Alberta C. Carpenter, and Gregg T. Beckham, Manufacturing energy and greenhouse gas emissions associated with plastics consumption, *Joule* (2021) 5, 3, 673-686.

Changxia Shi, Zi-Chen Li, Lucia Caporaso, Luigi Cavallo, Laura Falivene, Eugene Y.-X., Hybrid monomer design for unifying conflicting polymerizability, recyclability, and performance properties, *Chem* (2021), 7, 670–685.

# Patents and patent applications

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- Synergistic dual cure for rapid manufacturing of thermoset material, 22-71: U.S. provisional patent application 63/414,238
- Base-mediated method for the recycling of epoxy resin-carbon fiber composites, 22-130: U.S. provisional patent application 63/418,874
- Renewable bio-advantaged plasticizer generated by reductive cross coupling of lignin-derived aromatics, 22-124: U.S. provisional patent application 63/379,217
- Process for sequential acetolysis-oxidation of plastic streams, 22-107: U.S. provisional patent application 63/383,293
- Methods and systems for dye removal from polymer textiles, 22-106: U.S. provisional patent application 63/384,137
- Biodegradable elastomeric thermosets from microbially-produced polyhydroxyalkanoates, 19-104: U.S. provisional patent application 63/386,011
- Light-driven C-C bond cleavage enabled by polyoxometalate photocatalysts, 21-95: U.S. provisional patent application forthcoming

# Patents and patent applications

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- Hydrogenolysis of Polyethylene and Polypropylene into Propane over Cobalt-Based Catalysts, 22-81: U.S. provisional patent application 63/340,322
- Catalysts for Depolymerizing Plastics, 20-22: 17/370,244
- Plastic Degrading Fusion Proteins and Methods of Using the Same, 20-86: PCT/US21/31610
- Polymer Degrading Enzymes, 21-88: PCT/US22/25624.
- Dissolution Purification and Recovery for Polymeric Recycling, 22-16: 63/307,676
- Method to Produce Branched-Chain Polyhydroxyalkanoates and Branched Chain 3-Hydroxyacids from Glucose, 21-63A: 63/321,207.
- Upcycling Mixed Waste Plastic Through Chemical Depolymerization and Biological Funneling, 20-123: PCT/US21/63725.
- Genetically engineered Pseudomonas strains capable of metabolizing ethylene glycol, 17-26: 11,021,721
- Engineered Pseudomonas for the Deconstruction of Polymers, 18-76: 17/055,626
- Microorganisms Engineered for Muconate Production, 20-48: 17/184,580

# Patents and patent applications

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- Polymers from bio-derived dicarboxylic acids (BKA to nylon), 17-48: 10,662,289
- Polymers and methods of making the same (PET formulated with adipic/muconic acids), 17-55A: 17/205,232
- Monomers, Polymers and Methods of Making the Same (Bio-plastic ABS), 18-69: 16/583,471
- Bio-derived biphenyl compounds (Polycarbonates), 18-81: 16/791,873
- Bioderived monomers as replacements in petroleum-based polymers and copolymers (novel bio-based plasticizers), 19-38: 16/790,093
- Conversion of dicarboxylic acids to monomers and plasticizers, 19-41A: 16/995,338
- Bio-derived Epoxide Triazine Networks and Methods of Making the Same, 20-26: 17/324,222
- Bio-derived Epoxy-Anhydride Thermoset Polymers for Wind Turbine Blades and Anti-Static Coatings, 20-59: 17/494,514
- Plastic waste derived polymers and resins and methods of making the same (PET upcycled to 3D printing materials). 20-37: 17/371,421
- Mixed Waste Plastics Compatibilizers for Asphalt (filed by ASU), 21-53: 63/148,423

# Patents and patent applications

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- Bioderived Benzoxazines, 20-130: 17/690,131
- Novel Routes to Bis-furan Diacids, Dialcohols and Diamines, US 9840485
- Improved Industrial Production of Isotactic Polylactides (PLA), US 10174161
- Chemically Recyclable Polymers to Combat Single-Use Plastics, PCT Patent Pending: WO 2021/113325
- Synthesis of Crystalline Polymers from Cyclic Diolides, US Utility Patent Pending: US 2019/0211144
- Novel Compounds and Methods for Upgrading Biomass to Produce Premium Biofuels, US Utility Patent: US 9469626 B2, US Utility Patent: US 9828354 B2
- High-Speed, Stereoselective Polymerization for Renewable Bio-derived Plastics, US Utility Patent: US 9309332

# Presentations

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Selective Hydrogenolysis of Polyolefin Waste to Liquid Hydrocarbons over Bifunctional Ru/Acid Catalysts, AIChE National Conference, November 15, 2022.

Developing Strategies for Polymer Redesign and Recycling Using Reaction Pathway Analysis, AIChE Annual Meeting, November 2022.

Development of non-model microbes as chassis organisms for bioconversion. Presented at the AIChE Annual Meeting, November 2022.

Redesigning Polymers to Leverage a Circular Economy, Chemical Engineering, Purdue University, November 2022.

Bio-based Polymers with Performance & Recyclability Advantages, Braskem, virtual seminar, November 2022.

Design Principles and Chemocatalytic Methods for Circular Polymers and Biodegradable Plastics, BASF Lecture in Organic Chemistry, November 2022.

Developments in Advanced Recycling, TA Instruments Webinar, October 2022.

Design of Polyolefin-like Polyesters with Closed-loop Lifecycles, ACS WRM Polymer Symposium, October 2022.

Adopting a sustainable plastics supply chain, RISE 2022, September 2022.

# Presentations

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Redesigning plastics to be recyclable-by-design, RISE 2022, September 2022.

Advances in lignin and plastics conversion, VITO, September 2022.

Decoding the mechanism of autoxidation deconstruction reaction of plastics by in-situ simultaneous SAXS and WAXS,” XVIII International Small-Angle Scattering Conference (SAS2022), September 2022.

Design of functionalized polyolefins and polyolefin-like polyesters with close-loop chemical recycling, ACS Advances in Polyolefins, September 2022.

Using synthetic biology to solve challenges in plastic waste and renewable chemical production, Biological Sciences Departmental Seminar, September 2022.

Advancing the catalytic upcycling of waste polyolefin plastics, Beckman Foundation Regional Symposium, August 2022.

Using redesigned iron catalysts to bring aromatic subunits to a common intermediate, SIMB 2022, August 2022

Techno-economic analysis and life cycle assessment for catalytic fast pyrolysis of mixed plastic waste, BioEnergy TRP Meeting, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, August 2022.

Bio-based, recyclable-by-design polymers, ACS National Meeting, August 2022

# Presentations

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Techno-Economic analysis and life cycle assessment of mixed waste plastics via pyrolysis and gasification, ACS Fall Conference, August 2022.

Monomer design for circular polymers that unify conflicting properties, ACS Symposium: Design Polymers for Upcycling, ACS National Meeting, August 2022.

Bio-based acrylic plastics with performance and recyclability advantages, ACS Symposium: Green Polymer Chemistry and Sustainability, ACS National Meeting, August 2022.

Plastics recycling, upcycling, and redesign in the BOTTLE Consortium, ACS National Meeting, August 2022.

Plastics Deconstruction & Upcycling in the BOTTLE Consortium, ACS National Meeting, August 2022.

Design principles and chemocatalytic methods for intrinsically circular polymers and biodegradable plastics, ACS Presidential Event: Series-Enabling Circular Economy via Polymer Molecular Recycling, ACS National Meeting, August 2022.

Techno-economic, life-cycle, and socioeconomic impact analysis of enzymatic recycling of poly(ethylene terephthalate), ACS Fall Conference, August 2022.

Kinetic Monte Carlo-based tool to unravel solvolysis chemistry of step-growth polymers, National Meeting of the American Chemical Society, August 2022.

# Presentations

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Tracking in situ structural changes in Ru, Mo and Co-based hydrogenolysis catalysts for polyolefin deconstruction under mild temperature using in situ/operando X-ray absorption spectroscopy, ACS Fall Meeting: Polymer Upcycling Symposium, August 2022.

High throughput test tools for industrially relevant microbial chassis, SIMB 2022, August 2022.

Circular polymers and biodegradable plastics, Circular Polymers and Biodegradable Plastics International Research Training Group, University of Muenster, July 2022.

Engineering P450s to alleviate a bottleneck to lignin demethylation, Intl. Conference on Porphyrins and Phthalocyanines, July 2022.

Difficult to recycle plastics, Sustainable Packaging Coalition Engage Meeting, July 2022.

Selective chemical recycling of mixed plastics waste, Polymer Physics Gordon Research Conference, July 2022.

Plastics recycling and upcycling in the BOTTLE Consortium, NASEM Committee on Repurposing Plastic Waste, July 2022.

Developing strategies for polymer redesign and recycling using reaction pathway analysis, Gordon Research Conference on Polymer Physics, July 2022.

Multi-Material Flexible Packaging Coalition SPC, February 2022.

# Presentations

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Development of chemical recycling approaches for plastic waste (via webinar), BASF, March 18th, 2022

Development of chemical recycling approaches for plastic waste, Enzylic Consortium (via webinar), January 2022

Development of chemical recycling approaches for plastic waste, UIUC, December 2021

Design Principles and Synthetic Methodologies for Circular Polymers with Intrinsic Recyclability and Tunable Properties, Pacifichem Conference, December 2021

New building blocks for performance-advantaged renewable and recyclable polymers, Pacifichem (via webinar), December 2021

Discovery and characterization of PET degrading enzymes, University of Rochester microplastics workgroup seminar series, December 2021.

Design Principles and Synthetic Methodologies for Intrinsically Circular Polymers and Biodegradable Plastics, Columbia University, November 2021

Selective Hydrogenolysis of Polyethylene and Polypropylene to Liquid Alkanes over Tunable Ruthenium-Based Heterogeneous Catalysts, 2021 AIChE National Conference, Boston, MA, November 2021.

Plastics recycling and upcycling, ACS Converge (via webinar), October 2021

# Presentations

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Genetic tools and microbial engineering for biological production of sustainable fuels and chemicals, Presented to Weekly Seminar for DOE CCI/SULI Students. October 2021

Heterogeneous Catalytic Deconstruction and Upcycling of Waste Polyolefins, Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University, SM3 Seminar Series, October 2021.

Domestication of diverse non-model microbes for plastics upcycling and sustainable fuel and chemical production, Biological Sciences Departmental Seminar, Michigan Technical University. October 2021.

Catalysis for valorization of lignin and plastics, Great Plains Catalysis Society (via webinar), June 2021

The critical role of economic and environmental analysis to guide research in lignin valorization and plastics upcycling, Keynote Invited Lecture, ACS Green Chemistry and Engineering (via webinar), June 2021

Towards Intrinsically Circular Thermoplastics and Reprocessable Thermosets, Dow Chemical Company, virtual seminar, May 2021

Recent progress in performance-advantaged bioproducts and plastics upcycling, Arizona State University (via webinar), April 2021

Recent adventures in biomass conversion and plastics upcycling, Rutgers University (via webinar), April 2021

# Presentations

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Recent adventures in biological plastics upcycling, MIX-UP Consortium (via webinar), April 2021

Framing challenges and opportunities for chemical recycling of waste plastics, ACS Presidential Symposium on Chemistry and the Future of Plastics (via webinar), April 2021

Recent updates in plastics upcycling from the BOTTLE Consortium, ExxonMobil Research and Engineering, April 2021

Design Principles and Synthetic Methodologies for Circular Polymers and Biodegradable Plastics, KAUST, Physical Science and Engineering Division, virtual seminar, April 2021

Heme and non heme iron enzymes and renewable carbon, University of San Antonio Texas, April 2021

A flexible kinetic assay efficiently sorts potential biocatalysts for BHET hydrolysis, Symposium on Biomaterials, Fuels, and Chemicals, April 2021

BETO 2021 Peer Review, virtual, March 2021

Design Principles for Circular Plastics with Tunable Properties, CellPress LabLinks: The Circular Plastics Economy: Linking Across Scales, virtual event with 440 registered attendees. March 2021.

Process analysis for enzymatic PET recycling, Global Research and Innovation on Plastics annual meeting (via webinar), March 2021

# Presentations

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Polyolefin upcycling in the BOTTLE Consortium, Annual SPE meeting (via webinar), February 2021

Biological processes for lignin and plastics conversion, University of California Riverside (via webinar), January 2021